GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4842
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS OF DELHI
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi was declared as a World Heritage City in a book published by the ASI in 1982 and identified about 1400 monuments out of which only 170 are protected by the ASI;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location wise;

(c) the reasons for not selecting all the monuments;

(d) whether the Hauz Rani, Hauz Khas, Begumpur, Khirki, Mehrauli, Lado Sarai, Kalu Sarai and Savitri Nagar monuments are slowly getting wiped out from the map of Delhi due to natural degradation, encroachments and neglect of ASI; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. There is no provision for declaring any city a heritage city under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958. In Delhi, 166 monuments/sites have been declared as of national importance. The location-wise details are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Only those monuments which are considered to be of exceptional historical or archaeological merit have been enlisted as protected monuments by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(d)&(e) No, Sir. Due to urbanization, the open areas around the monuments/sites are being encroached. However adequate timely measures are taken by the A.S.I. to contain such illegal encroachments through the various agencies involved e.g. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, local Police, etc.In addition legal action is also taken wherever necessary to evict encroachers. Suitable conservation measures are implemented depending upon the requirement of the monuments subject to available resources.